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SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2003 2006

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XAN 01113
18 April 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: [redacted]
Office of General Counsel (U)

FROM: [redacted]
IMS/FPLG/Appeals and Litigation Branch (U)

SUBJECT: DOJ/OSI Investigation - Robert Jan Verbelen (U)

REFERENCE: OGC 84-0072, 25 January 1984 (U)

Forwarded herewith are notes taken by DOJ/OSI representative Elizabeth B. White during her review of the Directorate of Operations' records and files on Robert Jan Verbelen. We have classified the notes and they may be returned to DOJ/OSI with notification that none of the information should be used in an investigation or litigation without prior approval of this Directorate. (S)

[redacted] (U)
DO Appeals and Litigation Officer

2 Attachment h/w: Notes

WARNING NOTICE
INTELLIGENCE SOURCES
OR METHODS INVOLVED

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Elizabeth B. White
Office of Special Investigations SECRET

8p

Schwab 4/15/85

2/7/52: fr. Acting Ass't. Dir. for Special Opns to Dir. CIA
1949 survey of G-2 pos. intel. opns. in Aus. "It was found that with the exception of Order of Battle opns in E. Eur Aus. and Hung., opns under the control of G-2 & CIC had little validity. Some were pinned down to fabrication & refugee debriefing; others were outlets for paper mills; still others duplicated opns run by this Agency... Det 35 estab. 2/1/51 with respon. for all pos. intel. opns. and the CIC personnel, mostly civilians, running them. CIA staff mem. placed in charge. Det 35 was to be taken over by CIA, but no final agreement has been reached. Personnel dropped from 12 to 10 & more likely to quit.

3/20/52 Asst. Dir SO to Dep. Dir. (Plans):
Det 35 will not be transferred fr. G-2 to CIA.

3/28/84 CIA [ ] to CIA [ ]
"Acc. to a high-ranking Viennese police official, V. was one of the best informants of the Austn. police on the actvs. of rightest extremest groups in Aus."
V. alleged to have obtained polit asylum in Algeria after trial [Austn.] but was unable to leave Aus. for lack of identification papers.
10/69 V. claiming he ~~worked~~ was working for KGB, that its protection was better than US, his cover was as journalist/stringer for Salzburger Volksblatt and prime target rightist orgns. in Aus.
V. applied for employment with RFE under name Herbert Mayer.

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3/7/84 Dir. to [redacted]
same as 3/8/84 Aliases: Richard Becker, Peter Meyer, Van Martens Verbelen, Erich Diehl, Herb. Charpentier, Joseph Pollack, Alfred H. Schwab.

3/7/84 [redacted] to [redacted]
V. lives as 36/3/1 Nineteenth District Vienna tel. 37 29 285

12/28/83 Memo for Record by Robt. Allena
V's wife & 2 children reportedly murdered by resistance.

CIA Personality (201) File Request 8/16/57?
Schwab, Alfred Heinrick Gustave aka Mayer, Herbert Source Document: CIC 1400
b. 6/30/14 Apia [redacted]

Radio Free Eur. Personal Hist. Questionnaire for Non-US Citizens 10/22/? Name: Mayer, Herbert [redacted] b. 2/4/38 in Karlstein, Gy. [Obviously not V.] Part of V's CIC file apparently sent in response to a request for a record check: top card is 12/22/49 Zappala card with Control Data Form 1-A report with refs. to Sept '49 repts. submitted. Card has written in notions of "Austrian citizenship, Belgian" but not V's true name

10/29/69 "Sov. Intel. Recruitment" Munich 766th MID, 66th MI Group.
V. talking about KGB having contacted him. "KGB was fully aware of his [V's] present work for the US Intel. Service. V also stated that in the past he had occasion to learn what the protection of the US Intel. Serv. amounted to; no doubt Soviet protection wld have been far more effective.

8/25/65 Fr. Madrid to Vienna, Brussels, Paris, & A.:
Algerian ~~[illegible]~~ being recruited for Flemish Liberation Army supposed to go for Vienna to contact V. to obtain

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imp. docs. V to get asylum in Algeria and open Flem. Lib. Army office there. Le Monde 4/22/65 on FLA - made up of Nazi offs., financed by wealthy rancher named Prome (phonetic) living Cordoba Castellar 894 Alta, Arg. Vanniesbecq, Gustavo A.O. the FLA recruiter in Madrid.

Stuttgart to Vienna (1/4/66)
Kurt Zimmerman aka Charpentier DOB 3/25/25 dropped w/ prej. as 430th source 11/16/50, dossier: XE 230187

12/2/65 fr. Munich to Vienna
Latest Munich file on V. is 6/65 "which trace request Dr. Volkmar Riessberger who had been in contact Vepelen 1961. Riessberger [redacted]

11/30/65 Vienna to Dir. Fran. Stat., Mun:
V revealing at trial that he worked for CIC. "... Kurt Zimmermann insinuated he & Verbelen worked ag. Soviet USIA enterprises in Aus. for CIC Zimmermann used cover name Charpentier and Verbelen used cover name Peter in correspondence."

6/28/65 Bonn to Vienna
Germans want info. on Volkmar Riessberger who had personal BND contacts - unknown if contact also professional - fr. 1956 to '59 and tried to recruit V. in 12/61 for work w/ "Committee of German Emigree Officers" located in Finnland & aiming to influ. polit. devel. of W. & Central Eur. Pre-38 Austr. Nazi, post-45 Austr. Communist. 1962 sentenced 5 yrs. imprisonment for financial crimes related to Austro-Czech trade. Indications that Riessberger worked for ODOPAL CIC until '51. Someone gave a garbled story ab. Riessberger's approach to V. on 1/23/62. V. was run by ODOPAL CIC in early post-war yrs.

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Chief of Sta. ~~Vienna~~ Bonn to C.of S. Germany (3/4/63) letter fr. Dr. Aschenauer, V's atty., to Austn. Chancellor A. Gorbach. I am certain that the Amern. IS was aware of V's [past wartime actvs. & convicts] Had V been guilty of a criminal offense he wld not have been employed as "Herbert" w/ the Amern IS.

4/20/62 "Vienna Police Support of the Belg. war crim. V"
SOURCE: Austrian Official. High-ranking Viennese police official say V was one of best informants, that the Belg. extrad. request "technically faulty" and he wld try to defend V. and prevent extrad.

6/30/56: fr. Pullach to Chief EE
V. became a contact of Heinz Siegert - a BND agent in fall '55, told him his true name & that he worked for an AIS but contact was loose & he wanted to work for Germans. UPSWING asked ab. a Richard Becker at Türkenstr., alias Erich Diehl, & CIA came back w/ Verbelen. Becher & V. not ident., but since V in contact w/ Siegert, UPSWING had him checked out by another person w/ good Austn. police contacts, UPSWING learned that V worked for CIC, wants to take him over if CIC will let him go. V had suggested a joint journalistic venture w/ Siegert. UPSWING seems to have big plans for V even recognizing political dynamite of legalizing V under true name in FRG & of that becoming known to Belgns. Rumored that in '52 V was in Belg. in contact w/ Sov. Emb.

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4/17/85

5/10/62 [ ] to Dir.
Asking if Verbelen listed on CROWCASS. V., acc. to our files, is former CIC source & once said his w.w.n. intel connection wld procure him legal status in BRD. Requests advice how to handle this w/ [ ] since serious repercussions may result if V's CIC connection became known in Belg.

5/11/62 Dir. to [ ]
Tell [ ] only if asked & ambassador that V in contact w/ USG investigative agcy in Aus. dur. occupation using alias & said agcy unaware of V's true identity.

5/11/62 [ ] to Dir
Belgian press report that V was US secret agent for mily intel & worked for Austn State Police. Need requested advice. For Paris: "any possibility asking [ ] refrain from further exploitation this case."

5/18/62 [ ] to Dir.
Answer delayed bec. cutout had to meet w/ [ ] who dismisses V's work for CIC as part of early post-war confusion. Unlikely he wld heed request [above] & it might make him suspect more recent, intimate USG contact w/ V. which wld shake his confidence, cooperation and he might pass it on to [ ]

11/19/56 Chief of Base, Pullach to Chief EE
Passed to BND the CIC rept. on V. & stated not sure if CIC had actually dropped V. BND said V. had prob. been run out of Capt. Alexander's CIC shop in Vienna.

7/30/56 Pullach to Chief EE
V. met BND agent Hans Siegert in fall '55, suggested joint journalistic effort. BND 1st thought V. was Richard Becker aka Erich Diehl DPOB 8/26/19 Brno who had worked for Soviet Censorship in Vienna in '46 & lived 17/II/20 Turkenstraße Vienna IX. Its trace

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on Becker turned up censorship role but also estab. existence of a Robt Jean V. b. 4/5/11 Hevent, Belg., mem. Flemish SS, worked for SD, set up DEVLAG & directed political murders, sentenced to death in absentia. Belg. Intel. Rept. 2/3/56 unconfirmed rumor that V. went to Belg. in '52 & contacted Soviet Emb. BND said Becker & V. not the same but bec. of V's contact w/ Siegert, a Walter Kainz wld check V. out. Kainz has good police connections. V., living as Peter Meyer, had told Kainz his true name & that he worked for W.Gen intel. service but wld prefer work for Germans. Said W.Gen intel. serv. might legalize him in Gy. V. knew Kainz worked for German intel. serv. but not which one. Before CIA learned this, BND requested on 7/25 CIA check w/ CIC bec. BND swe V. worked for ~~CIC~~ someone & CIA trace had not shown this. BND then said if CIC wld release V., BND wld pick him up. Would not use him w/ Siegert. BND seems to have big plans for V, despite potential political dynamite if BND or CIC legalizes V under true name in Gy. & Belgians find out.

7/25/56 Pullach to Dir.
BND told us on 7/24 that V. told Kainz his true name & W.Gen connection.

1/30/56 Ch. of Sta. Gy to Pullach
Info that V was ldr. of an agent training ~~center~~ schl. in Schneidemuehl, E. Gy came to Am. Emb. in Brussels on 8/29/51 fr. a source who had learned it while in a DDR prison. Source had been released ca. 1 yr. before informing Emb.

1/30/56 Pullach to EE
Siegert, formerly connected w/ pro-Comm. Oesterreicher Beobachter, was approached by a Robt. Becker aka Erich DIEL to set up joint journalistic effort. BND put an agent on Becker who estab. close relat. w/ him. Becker recently told agent his real name was Robt. V. van Martens. BND thinks V. sent by Sovs. or their

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allies to check on Siegert. BND says V., under name Becker, may work for Austn Govt. I suggested BND check w/ ~~Austn~~ head of Austn. intel. on this & it might held relate. w/ head of Austn. intel. if BND did finger an Eurn agent in Austn Govt. BND agreed.

1/25/56 Frankfurt to Pullach
V. was connected w/ Gereverdus Neveleteen, wld-66 informant on comm. activs. in Belg. & Gy., who said V. was ldr. of Sov. agent training center.

11/20/55 Pullach to EE
BND wants traces on
Richard Becker b. 3/26/19 Brno, address Vienna IX, Turkenstr. 17/II/door 20. Police rept. shows Becker came to Vienna from Hamburg as a returnee on 4/2/46, may work for Austn. Landwirtschaftsmin. Also may be Erich Diel, a writer of Dutch descent. Check w/ ~~or~~ CIC.

R 8/16/51 [ ] to Ch., For. Div. M
list of CIC's Det 35 Informants - past & present
1400 Alfred Heinrich Gustave Schwab (Herbert, Peter Mayer)
1401 Hans Groissl
1406 Walter Brunner aka Meyer
1412 Dr. Heinz Drimmel
1402 Kurt Simmermann (Charpentier) see also 1459
1407 Kurt Prettenthaler

OSS Archives London "Ludovicus de Ceulaerde Verbelen, Robt: Staff ldr DE VLAG, Founded Sicherheitskorps in Belg. Also in chge of Police matters in illegal govt formed in Gy. by Jef van de Wiele, ldr. of DE VLAG, together w/ Dr. Borms & Verschaeve. A mem. of the Skorzeny Group 502 whose members were trained at Neu Strelitz in parachute jumping, wireless, sabotage, etc.

Skorzeny Group 502 - some mems. sent back behind Allied lines, furnished false papers, money (US, Brit, Belg) & watches & brooches

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Belgian Sureté interrogations of Leo van Cranenbroeck & Guillaume Cludts

V. left agents behind in Belg. & sent others back thru fr. Gy., mainly in Limburg. He formed the Polizei-Bttn Flandern & was w/ it on the front in 12/44. After one escapade earlier in Belg. he was called to meet Himmler & after that was under German command, left w/ gr. deal of freedom to maneuver. Germans didn't get enough men like him. Everything that happened in Brussels, repressions, interrogations under torture, etc. was organized by him.

Skorzeny 502 — trained women agents

Folder 37 A (McRae)

V. started by taking actions on his own ag. will of Germans. Took 125 hostages after one of his women agents killed. Made daily raids on Jews of Brussels, tortured them

V. & co. left ~~Brass~~ Belg. 9/5/44.

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